<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>**Listing of Claims:**</u>

1. (Currently Amended)   An extensible file access method for accessing a foreign file system from a data processing system with a native file system, said foreign file system and said native file system implementing different file system protocols, said file access method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

   issuing a request according to ~~the~~ a native file system protocol for data stored in the foreign file system;

   translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming interface, wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file system protocol and ~~the~~ a foreign file system protocol;

   translating the intermediate file system request to the foreign file system protocol; and

   returning to the data processing system a response from the foreign file system responsive to the translated request.

2. (Currently Amended)  The file access method of claim 1 wherein the file access method is

extended to support a second foreign file system by providing a translation from the intermediate

programming interface to the second foreign file system protocol, said method further

comprising: ~~comprising the step of:~~

> determining the foreign file system protocol.


3. (Currently Amended)  The file access method of claim 1 wherein the file access method is

extended to support a second native file system by providing a translation from the second native

file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface, said method further comprising:

~~comprising the step of:~~

> determining the native file system protocol.


4. (Original)  The file access method of claim 1 wherein the intermediate programming

interface comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol

and the foreign file system protocol and comprises a set of file system specific functions which

are not common to the file system protocols.

5. (Original)   The file access method of claim 4 wherein set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol are translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol, and wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols are not translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol.

6. (Original)   The file access method of claim 5 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended native file system functions which have no equivalent function in the foreign file system protocol.

7. (Original)   The file access method of claim 6 wherein the set of extended native file system functions causes a predetermined response to be sent to the data processing system.

8. (Original)   The file access method of claim 5 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended foreign file system functions which have no equivalent function in the native file system protocol.

9. (Original)   The file access method of claim 8 wherein the set of extended foreign file system

functions are passed through to the foreign file system in an untranslated form.


10. (Currently Amended)   An article of manufacture for use in a computer system for providing

an extensible file access method for accessing a foreign file system from a data processing

system with a native file system, said foreign file system and said native file system

implementing different file system protocols, said article of manufacture comprising a computer-

readable storage medium having a computer program embodied in said medium which causes the

computer system to execute the access method comprising the steps of:

issuing a request according to the a native file system protocol for data stored in the

foreign file system;

translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming interface,

wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file system

protocol and the a foreign file system protocol;

translating the intermediate file system request to the foreign file system protocol; and

returning to the data processing system a response from the foreign file system responsive

to the translated request.

11. (Currently Amended)   The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the file access

method is extended to support a second foreign file system by providing a translation from the

intermediate programming interface to the second foreign file system protocol, said method

further comprising: ~~comprising the step of:~~

   determining the foreign file system protocol.


12. (Currently Amended)   The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the file access

method is extended to support a second native file system by providing a translation from the

second native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface, said method

further comprising: ~~comprising the step of:~~

   determining the native file system protocol.


13. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 10 wherein the intermediate programming

interface comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol

and the foreign file system protocol and comprises a set of file system specific functions which

are not common to the file system protocols.

14. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol are translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol, and wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols are not translated from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file system protocol.

15. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended native file system functions which have no equivalent function in the foreign file system protocol.

16. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein the set of extended native file system functions causes a predetermined response to be sent to the data processing system.

17. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the set of file system specific functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended foreign file system functions which have no equivalent function in the native file system protocol.

18. (Original)   The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the set of extended foreign file

system functions are passed through to the foreign file system in an untranslated form.

19. (Currently Amended)   An extensible file access system for accessing a foreign file system

from a data processing system with a native file system, said foreign file system and said native

file system implementing different file system protocols, said file access system comprising:

a request issued according to the a native file system protocol for data stored in the

foreign file system;

a translator for translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming

interface, wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file

system protocol and the a foreign file system protocol;

a translator for translating the intermediate file system request to the foreign file system

protocol; and

a response returned to the data processing system from the foreign file system responsive

to the translated request.

20. (Original)   The file access system of claim 19 wherein the file access system is extended to

support a second foreign file system by providing a translator for translation from the

intermediate programming interface to the second foreign file system protocol.

21. (Original)   The file access system of claim 19 wherein the file access system is extended to

support a second native file system by providing a translator for translation from the second

native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface.


22. (Original)   The file access system of claim 19 wherein the intermediate programming

interface comprises a set of generic access functions common to the native file system protocol

and the foreign file system protocol and comprises a set of file system specific functions which

are not common to the file system protocols.


23. (Original)   The file access system of claim 22 wherein set of generic access functions

common to the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol are translated

from the native file system protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then

translated to the foreign file system protocol, and wherein the set of file system specific functions

which are not common to the file system protocols are not translated from the native file system

protocol to the intermediate programming interface which is then translated to the foreign file

system protocol.

24. (Original)   The file access system of claim 23 wherein the set of file system specific

functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended

native file system functions which have no equivalent function in the foreign file system

protocol.

25. (Original)   The file access system of claim 24 wherein the set of extended native file system

functions causes a predetermined response to be sent to the data processing system.

26. (Original)   The file access system of claim 23 wherein the set of file system specific

functions which are not common to the file system protocols further comprises a set of extended

foreign file system functions which have no equivalent function in the native file system

protocol.

27. (Original)   The file access system of claim 26 wherein the set of extended foreign file

system functions are passed through to the foreign file system in an untranslated form.